



# City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

<b>Appointee Name:</b> <i>Mergitu Argo</i>		
<b>Board/Commission Name:</b> <i>Seattle Women's Commission</i>		<b>Position Title:</b> <i>Member</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment <b>OR</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		<b>Council Confirmation required?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Appointing Authority:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Specify appointing authority</i>		<b>Term of Office:</b> <i>07/02/16 - 07/01/18</i>
<b>Residential Neighborhood:</b>	<b>Zip Code:</b> <i>98178</i>	<b>Contact Phone No.:</b>
<b>Legislated Authority:</b> <i>SMC 3.14.920, SMC 3.14.921, SMC 3.51.010, Ordinance 118392, Ordinance 120871, Ordinance 120325, Ordinance 123219, Ordinance 117307</i>		
<b>Background:</b> <p>Mergitu worked for Neighborhood House as an employment specialist. She also has worked in Refuge Women's Alliance classroom interpreting, conducting parent education workshops and case management for the ESL/DD participants and family advocating for East African's who speak Amharic and Oromiffa . She has served on the African Community Network board in Washington, and the East African Police Advisory Council. Mergitu advocates for refugee and immigrant women in Seattle.</p>		
<b>Date of Appointment:</b> <i>Confirmation</i>	<b>Authorizing Signature (original signature):</b> 	<b>Appointing Signatory:</b> <i>Councilmember Lisa Herbold Seattle City Council</i>

**Objective:**

To utilize my experience and extensive community outreach skills in the social service field where I can make a difference on behalf of people who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

**Summary of Qualifications:**

- Developed a wide area of network, resources and built relationship with local employment agencies, community organizations, housing agencies and human service agencies by referring qualified candidates for training and employment opportunities.
- Demonstrated desire and skills to work with multi-cultural families.
- Experienced in assisting low-income young adults and family with job placement and support services.
- Trilingual Interpreter and Translator: Fluent in the English, Amharic and Oromiffa languages
- Passionate about motivating young adults who are low income to become self-sufficient.
- Experienced in working with public schools, local government and non-profit agencies
- Ability to plan and organize variety of tasks for various communities and implement them within a deadline;
- 15 years of employment specialist and case management experience.

**Relevant Experience:**

- |   |                   |                            |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <p>One America<br/>South King County Organizer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize communities</li> <li>• Help on political campaigns</li> </ul>  | <p>Seattle WA</p> | <p>04/20/15 – Present</p>  |
| <p><b>SEIU775</b><br/>Union Organizer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize a home care workers in Washington state</li> <li>• Prepare hand outs and materials for the workers</li> <li>• Help on political campaigns</li> <li>• Educate the workers what is the benefits of having a union</li> </ul>  | <p>Seattle WA</p> | <p>04/2014 – 04/2015</p>   |
| <p><b>Neighborhood House</b><br/>Employment Specialist/case manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work directly with families that are becoming a homeless to prevent homelessness and help them to take job skill trainings and job search</li> <li>• Conduct retention survey with clients to support/help them to become self-sufficient</li> <li>• Assisted client with resume building and job applications</li> <li>• Job club assistance and refer them to job fairs</li> <li>• Assisted client with Immigration paper work and setting up for appointments time online for the client to go see/meet with immigration officers.</li> <li>• Follow up with employers and give good reconditions for all my clients</li> </ul> | <p>Seattle WA</p> | <p>03/2013 – 04/2014</p>   |
| <p><b>Seattle fire department</b><br/><i>Community outreach</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate the community how to prevent fire</li> <li>• Conduct a workshop on fire safety and emergency preparedness</li> </ul>   | <p>Seattle WA</p> | <p>06/2011 – Present</p>   |
| <p><b>City of Seattle Human Services Department</b><br/><i>Summer Youth Development Counselor</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted youth with a job placement</li> <li>• Develop job descriptions and managed a caseload of 33 youth</li> <li>• Proven success in mentoring, coaching, advising youth to lead them to successful internship</li> <li>• Motivate youth to develop good work readiness skills and stay on track with his/her established goals</li> </ul>  | <p>Seattle WA</p> | <p>03/2012 – 8/28/2012</p> |
| <p><b>Neighborhood House</b></p>  | <p>Seattle WA</p> | <p>04/2006 – 03/2012</p>   |

*Employment Specialist and Case Manager*

- Demonstrated understanding of local ethnic communities, labor market, local employer based, Work Source system, social service and education institution in King County
- Work directly with youth who dropped out of high school, providing them job skills training, prevent homelessness, counseling, and assist them to attain their GED.
- Conduct community outreach to low-income, English language learners, and vulnerable populations.
- Assisted client with immigration paper works and interpret for them in citizenship class.
- Managed a caseload of 40+ youth and family to assist them with employment, job skill training, and academic achievements.
- Facilitate employment orientations through one-on-one coaching, workshops and development.
- Assist y clients with job searching, mock-up interviews, creating resumes and job readiness workshops.
- Conduct retention surveys with clients to support/help them to become self-sufficient.
- Refer clients to social service resources for housing, child care and transportation issues to ensure a successful transition into the workforce.

**Refugee Women's Alliance** **Seattle WA** **02/1997 – 04/2006**

*Family Advocate, Employment Specialist and Program Coordinator*

- Managed a caseload of 40-50 clients, assist women with personal and family crisis, assessed their needs and referred them to appropriate services.
- Assisted local ethnic communities, local employer based, social service and education institution in King County.
- Conduct program outreach and recruitment for as a career and training navigator.
- Assisted Rainier Vista resident youth in the Art program with after school activities.
- Translated and interpreted for Oromo and Amharic speaking families.
- Conducted workshops on bicultural parenting, the U.S. school system and family support.
- Facilitated workshops on HIV/AIDS prevention and nutrition for pregnant women.
- Assisted DD client and family with resources.
- Assisted youth career opportunities in skilled trades and health care sectors.

**Yohana International Interpreter Services** **Seattle WA** **02/1996 – 02/2006**

*Interpreter and Translator*

- Interpreted for Oromiffa and Amharic speaking clients in social services.
- Translated written documents between English, Oromiffa and Amharic.

**Horizon House Retirement Home** **Seattle WA** **05/1993 – 02/1997**

*Nursing Assistant*

- Assisted physically and mentally disabled and other seniors with daily needs.
- Monitored and assisted residents to take medications as directed by their physicians.
- Engaged residents in recreational activities.

**Education:**

Leadership and Supervision Certificate	South Seattle CC	2007
Case Manager Certificate,	SJI/WDC	2007
Administrative Assistant Certificate	Renton Tech. College	1997
Medical Assistant Certificate	American Medical Institute	1995
Nursing Assistant Certificate	Nursing Assistant Training Institute	1992
High School Diploma	Ethiopian Adventist College	1992

**Community Activities:**

Seattle Women's Commissioner	Seattle, WA	04/2010 – Present
Open Doors for Multicultural Families Board of Directors	Seattle, WA	02/2009 – 11/2013
East African Seattle Police Advisor Council (Co-Chair since 12/2014)	Seattle, WA	09/2000 – Present
Trusted Advocate White Center Community	Seattle, WA	09/2001 – Present
African Community Network (ACN) Board of Directors	Seattle, WA	04/1998 – 08/2012
Oromo Community of Seattle Board of Directors Member	Seattle, WA	01/1999 – 09/2005
Refugee and Immigrant Parent Advocacy Advisory Board	Seattle WA	05/1999 – 10/2004

**Additional Community Experiences**

Police Citizens Academy Class of 2011

FBI Citizens Academy Class of 2010

Outreach and education on emergency preparedness for E. African Community's in Seattle 02/2012

# Seattle Women's Commission

JULY 2016

21 Commission members: Per SMC. 3.14.920, Confirmed by City Council 2-year terms, all subject to City Council confirmation, 2-years for each term]-year terms:

- 9 City Council-appointed
- 9 Mayor-appointed
- 2 Appointed by Commission, Confirmed by City Council
- 1 Member Get Engaged Program Appointed by the Mayor Confirmed by City Council  
1-year term appointed in September

**Roster:**

*D	**G	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Start Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
2	F	1.	Member	Alyson L. Palmer	07/02/15	07/01/17	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mayor
2	F	2.	Member	Teresa Springer	07/02/14	07/01/16	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mayor
6	F	3.	Member	Jaron Reed Goddard	07/02/15	07/01/17	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayor
		4.	Member	Vacant	07/02/16	07/01/18		Mayor
2	F	5.	Member	Tracey Whitten	07/02/15	07/01/17	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayor
6	F	6.	Member	Erica J. Soelling	07/02/15	07/01/17	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mayor
		7.	Member	Vacant	07/02/15	07/01/17		Mayor
6	F	8.	Member	Morgan R. Beach	07/02/15	07/01/17	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayor
3	F	9.	Member	Lylianna Marie Allala	07/02/15	07/01/17	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayor
9	F	10.	Member	Idabelle Fosse	07/02/15	07/01/17	1 <sup>st</sup>	City Council
6	F	11.	Member	Honey Jo Herman	06/08/15	07/01/15	1 <sup>st</sup>	City Council
6	F	12.	Member	Alison Mondri	07/02/15	07/01/17	2 <sup>nd</sup>	City Council
		13.	Member	Xochitl Maykovich	07/02/16	07/01/18	1 <sup>st</sup>	City Council
2	F	14.	Member	Mergitu Argo	07/02/16	07/01/18	3 <sup>rd</sup>	City Council
3	F	15.	Member	Elsa Batres-Boni	07/02/15	07/01/17	2 <sup>nd</sup>	City Council
2	F	16.	Member	Rokea Jones	07/02/15	07/01/17	1 <sup>st</sup>	City Council
5	F	17.	Member	Ruchika Tulshyan	07/02/16	07/01/18	1 <sup>st</sup>	City Council
2	F	18.	Member	Lakeisha Jackson	07/02/16	07/01/18	2 <sup>nd</sup>	City Council
6	F	19.	Member	Michele Frix	07/02/16	07/01/18	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Commission
6	F	20.	Member	Nicki Olivier Hellenkamp	07/02/15	07/01/17	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Commission
2	F	21.	Get Engaged	Loida C. Erhard	09/08/15	09/30/16	1 term	Mayor

**Diversity Chart:**

				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
	Men	Women	Vacant	Minority	Asian-American	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	***Other	Caucasian/Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	0	7	2	4	0	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
Council	0	8	1	6	0	3	1	0	1	2	0	0	1
Comm	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
GE	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	18	3	11	0	7	2	0	1	7	0	0	1

**Key:**

- \*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)
- \*\*G List *gender*, M or F
- \*\*\*Other Includes diversity in any of the following: *race, gender and/or ability*